

**Preston Board of Selectmen
Emergency Services Advisory Committee
Special Joint Meeting
Thursday, March 21, 2019
Preston Town Hall
7:00 pm**

**BOS Present: Robert Congdon, Lynwood Crary, Michael Sinko
Emergency Services Advisory Committee: David Paige, James Bell
Ledyard: Chief of Police Chief John Rich, Police Lieutenant Kenneth Creutz, Mayor Fred Allyn**

Call to Order

1st Selectman Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Emergency Services – Ledyard

1st Selectman Congdon stated that he and Mayor Allyn have discussed ways that Preston could receive the same level of service or better than currently, and have efficiencies and save dollars.

Mayor Allyn stated that he was part of the process when Ledyard transformed from the Resident State Trooper program to an independent police force. Got to see first-hand the differences in the models and how things work.

Chief John Rich stated he has been in law enforcement for 31 years. The first 24.5 with the State Police, 3.5 years as Chief of Police in Madison, 3 years as Chief of Police in Ledyard.

Lieutenant Kenneth Creutz stated that he started his career in Plainfield in 1996, came to Ledyard in 1998. 18 years under the Resident state Trooper Program Promoted to Lieutenant 3 years ago.

Lieutenant Creutz stated that Ledyard Police Department does what a small town would expect in community policing and provides the type of police services that the citizens would want.

Chief Rich went through his PowerPoint presentation:

- Ledyard Police take part in Ledyard High School graduation; Honor Guard presents colors.
- Community oriented policing services; community involvement.
- Place a high premium on traffic safety.
- Crime prevention through educational programs and community engagement.
- Effectively use technology by analyzing data and using social media.
- Ledyard staffs 24/7 365 days a year.
- Ledyard has 2 officers on day shift, 3 officers on evening shift, and 2 officers on midnight shift.
- Ledyard would add five officers and one vehicle.
- Roving patrol on the evening shift.

- Salary costs could range from \$370,650 to \$480,795, based on experience of the five officers.
- Additional dispatcher for the anticipated call volume increase would cost \$59,297 to \$73,830.
- Additional administrator would cost \$27,833.

- \$45,758 in a one-time capital cost in the first year to purchase a police cruiser that would be dedicated to Preston.
- Overtime costs not factored in to these salaries.
- Ledyard community loves that they are able to know what is going on 24/7 due to the Department's use of Twitter and Face Book.

Lynwood Cray stated that he would like to know the number that Preston needs for their budget in order to anticipate a year down the road.

David Paige stated that more questions and follow up work needs to be done with Ledyard's numbers.

1st Selectman Congdon stated that Preston will have a Public Hearing on the budget in May. Realistic numbers will be needed.

More discussion with Ledyard on when and how they would be ready to start.

Preston's cost if services were cancelled.

Public Comment

Mike Clancy, Preston resident asked 1st Selectman Congdon asked if Preston could consider using Ledyard in 2 or 3 years and start setting some money aside now for the cost.

1st Selectman Congdon answered that is certainly an option.

Andy Bilodeau, Preston resident asked how many new hires would be needed.

Chief Rich answered 5 additional officers and another dispatcher.

Melissa Lennon stated that there would be a time when Preston would have double costs; the cost for the state Troopers and the costs to get Ledyard's 5 new hires on board. Both costs need to be presented to the Town. Residents need to be aware of the over lapping costs in addition to the annual cost of Ledyard's Police Force. The cost of discontinuing service will need to be presented also.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Charpentier
recorder